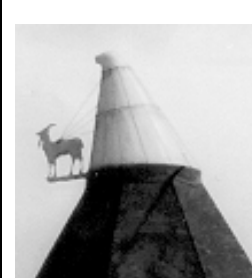


*Burton & District Family History Society Newsletter

* Burton & District Family History Society is a branch of the Birmingham & Midland Society for Genealogy & Heraldry



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Editor's Comments

A Happy New Year to everyone. Your Editor hopes that you all had a Happy Christmas and also happy New Year celebrations. Our Secretary, Delia, has arranged a very interesting programme for this year and has issued a Programme leaflet giving the details. All our thanks go to Delia for her hard work in preparing the programme for us. If you did not pick up a Programme leaflet at our December social, then please do at this evening's meeting.

Books on Ashby de la Zouch

If you have family from Ashby and would like some historical background to the town here are a couple of book recommendations:

Ashby de la Zouch: seventeenth century life in a small market town by Christopher Moxon, (2013) ISBN 978-1-291-51228-1. Price £7.20.

Based on the author's PhD thesis from 1971 but augmented with more recent research, this book by a locally-born author looks at the role played in local life by the Earls of Huntingdon, what happened there during the Civil War, the lasting impact of Puritan ministers, what is known about housing conditions and social structure, the way children were educated and how law and order was maintained. Available

from online retailers or may be borrowed from the Chairman.

The Kirkland papers 1753-1869 by Arthur Crane (1990) Crane Press ISBN 0-9517074-0-X.

This book looks at the life of the Kirkland family following the role played by Dr Thomas Kirkland of Ashby de la Zouch after John Johnson, steward to Laurence, 4th Earl Ferrers of Staunton Harold Hall, was murdered by the earl. It is based on a detailed study of the Kirkland papers (in the National Archives at Kew) and contains material from family papers reflecting the social life at all levels in the town from the late 18th century until the early 1930s. Book available in Burton Library.

The Toll-houses of Staffordshire. Recently published by Tim Jenkinson and Patrick Taylor. 150pp. Published by Polystar Press. ISBN 978-1907154072. Costs £9.95 from the BMSGH bookshop.

This is the first detailed study of Staffordshire's toll-houses, small buildings on the highway edge, lived in by the pike-men who collected the tolls used to pay for maintenance of the roads. Toll-houses were both functional buildings and to some extent expressions of architectural style, coming as they did at the beginning of the industrial revolution, they

made use of essentially local materials for their construction and yet often employ a non-vernacular octagonal ground plan to advertise their special purpose. The introductory chapters describe the origins and development of the turnpike road system in the county, the following gazetteer section describes the area's toll-houses from south to north. The descriptions are complemented by the use of mid to late 19th Century Census returns that identify some of the occupants of the toll-houses at that time. In addition some of the toll-houses that were used on the county's network of canals are included in the commentary.

Staffordshire Tolkien Trail

The author JRR Tolkien spent an important part of his early life in Staffordshire, particularly during WW1, when he was posted to army training camps on Cannock Chase. Influences from his experience of the local countryside have been identified in many of his creative works. A set of three circular walks has been developed, which constitute the Staffordshire Tolkien Trail. A booklet setting out these walks and giving a detailed view of Great Heywood, where Tolkien's wife Edith stayed while he was stationed at Rugeley, is available from Staffordshire Libraries (including Burton Library) by asking at the desk. It also provides a chronology of Tolkien's life from 1915 to 1918 and includes suggestions for further reading. The booklet costs £2.

Wills 1858-1996 available online

It is now possible to obtain full probate records online for the period 1858 to 1996. The charge is £10 for a downloadable copy. Go to <https://probatesearch.service.gov.uk/#calendar> and enter the surname and year of death. This brings up an image of the probate calendar listing (as available from Ancestry.co.uk) but gives boxes to fill in with details of the record you want. Fill this in from the information in the calendar and add it to your basket. A full copy of the will be available for downloading for 30 days once payment has been made. You will

need to register with the site to order documents.

Some dates for your diaries:

Staffordshire History Day 2015 at the Kingstone Centre, Stafford on 28 March 2015. Cost £19 including lunch. Further details available at <http://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives/Events/home.aspx>

Waterloo 200 at Tutbury Castle -Thursday 30th April 2015

On June 18th 2015 it will be 200 years since The Duke of Wellington won his famous victory at The Battle of Waterloo. As part of the celebrations it is proposed to run a Day School at Tutbury Castle, discovering what led up to the Battle and what it meant for the Country and Burton in particular. The Tutors for this day school will be Dr Trevor James and Richard Stone with more details for the programme of events for the day to be released at a later date, the cost for the day will be £12.50.

If archaeology is one of your interests then you might like to consider the Council for British Archaeology's West Midland Branch event in Birmingham on Saturday 28 February 2015: **News from the Past: the latest Archaeological Discoveries in the West Midlands. Saturday 28 February 2015, 10.00am - 5.00pm.** The Church Room at the Carrs Lane Church Centre, Carrs Lane, Birmingham B4 7SX (this is close to M&S (High St) and Moor Street station. Fee: £20, CBA WM members may deduct £5. (Refreshments will be available but please bring your own lunch.) This annual event, organised by the Council for British Archaeology West Midlands, includes several illustrated presentations about sites and objects from rural and urban parts of the region, ranging in date from prehistoric to modern times, including WW I. **Provisional Programme : 10.00am.** Welcome and introduction by Sheena Payne-Lunn, Chair CBA West Midlands & Chris Patrick, Coventry City Council. Confirmed speakers and topics:

- *Mike Hodder*, former Birmingham City Council Planning Archeologist, on Prehistoric Birmingham. • *Bryn Gethin*, Archaeology Warwickshire - A View from a Hill? Using basic aerial lidar to find new sites and better understand old ones. • *Angie Bolton*, PAS Finds Liaison Officer for Warwickshire & Worcestershire - Recent Discoveries Reported to the Portable Antiquities Scheme • *Mike Shaw*, former Black Country Archaeologist, on Recent Archaeological Work in Wolverhampton and Walsall. • *Mike Napthan*, Archaeology - Building Recording in Worcestershire. • *Louise Ennis*, Head of Strategic Development, CBA - CBA World War One Home Front Legacy Project • *Kevin Watson*, CADAS - Broadwell Archaeology Investigation Team Project • *George Demidowicz*, Honorary Research Fellow at University of Birmingham, on Selly Manor • *Martin Brown*, No Man's Land - The Archaeology of World War One Training Grounds

Not yet confirmed:

- *English Heritage* - Heritage at Risk in the West Midlands
- *Suzy Blake*, HER Officer, Staffordshire County Council - NMP, mapping the archaeology of Staffordshire

There will be a refreshment break in the morning and in the afternoon. A lunch break will take place between 1.00pm - 2.00pm.

Booking forms available at

<http://www.archaeologyuk.org/cbawm/meetings.php#news>

Meeting Summaries

October 2014: Philip Astley and the Modern Circus. Patsie Jarman

Philip Astley was born in Newcastle under Lyme in 1742. He enlisted in the 15th Light Dragoon Regiment and was renowned for his horsemanship and gentle methods of horse training. No whips or sticks; he was known as the Horse Whisperer. After his discharge he opened a Riding School in London teaching riders bare backed tricks. Equestrian displays

became very popular entertainments, later including other acts, tumbling, dancing, tightrope walking, drama, mind reading, magic and clowns. Astley opened 17 circuses across Europe and in Paris performed before Louis XV. He died there two hundred years ago. An Aquatic Show, lions and other exotic large animals were introduced as well as a band which led the procession as the circus entered a town. Charles Dickens and Jane Austen mention Astley in their books. Charles Dickens wrote the biography of Joseph Grimaldi, one of the greatest modern clowns. Acts became increasingly daring with lion tamers, ceiling walkers, tightrope walkers and trapeze artists. Charles Blondin pushed his 5 year old daughter across the high wire in a wheel barrow. A trapeze artist, Jules Leotard, gave his name to the clothing as well as being the subject of the song, 'The daring young man on the flying trapeze'. Bertram Mills increased the popularity of the circus but was also responsible for its downfall because of the treatment of animals. Certainly not something that would have been approved of by its founder, Philip Astley.

November 2014: Free websites.

Members' Evening.

Chairman Janet Kisz and secretary Delia Wyers told members about some free websites with the help of our newly acquired data projector. Delia used a USB Flash Drive and Janet used a local BT hotspot to test the projector and both presentation methods worked. The following list gives the website names and a short description.

<http://www.gbnames.publicprofiler.org/surnames.aspx>

shows the distribution of UK surnames in 1881 and 1998 assuming at least 100 occurrences of the name. The county profile gives the total number in each county but no more detail and maps for the two years can be switched between them. More detailed maps showing distribution within a county are available as a Surname Atlas disc from archersoftware costing £15.

www.archersoftware.co.uk/igi is an up to date version of the Hugh Wallis batch Number links to the International Genealogical Index (IGI).

After selecting the country from the menu the site is easy to use, drop down lists of the available registers giving the batch number, the register type (bap, marr, bur or mixed), years included and the number of records. Some years may be on several batches and it is worth looking at them all. Select a register and complete the search box to look for ancestors. 'Batch Number Tables' explain all the Prefix letters.

www.measuringworth.com/ukcompare answers questions such as: What did he earn? What was his status in society? Select Relative Values UK, £, complete the form, then 'calculate'. For instance in 1826, Joseph Adams, a gamekeeper at Keddlestone Hall earned £1 18s 6d a week. In 2013 this would be the equivalent of £141.10 (RPI), £2381.00 (economic status) or £6639.00 (economic power). Joseph had a house and his work clothes but paid under keepers and other staff. This is a free academic site but donations towards further research are requested.

Staffordshire Archives online Name Indexes.

www.staffsnameindexes.org.uk Janet and other volunteers have spent hundreds of hours producing various interesting Name Indexes from the records held at both the Staffordshire Archives.

Wills for Lichfield Diocese up to 1858 (more are gradually being added). The Indexes are searched by surname, year and place although probate may not take place for several years after a death and the place of death may not be the place of residence. An index of Derbyshire Wills can be found at

www.wirksworth.org.uk/frontpage.htm/WILLS.htm

The Calendars of Prisoners may be worth consulting if an ancestor is missing from a census or if you think a crime was committed. The actual records could have a photo of your ancestor displaying his hands as an identification feature. Local papers can then be consulted for further details.

The Workhouse Admissions and Discharge

Index gives information about a family's circumstances, where they lived, why they have

been admitted, family illness, illegitimate children, and children who may have been born and died between censuses.

Genuki.co.uk is useful to find information (including photographs) about places, churches, surname lists and Parish Registers. Information collated by local historians may provide a wealth of transcribed documents.

Yesterday's Journeys, the UK Genealogy Archives and StaffordshireBMD (part of UKBMD and soon to include Warwickshire) were other free websites mentioned. If you do not subscribe to findmypast Staffordshire Parish Registers are available free at County libraries with a valid library ticket.

December 2014 Christmas Social. Thanks to Charles and Margaret for organising drinks and 'housekeeping', Janet K and Delia for devising the tantalising quizzes and everyone for providing the excellent food and company. The WW1 quizzes: identifying Regimental Cap badges, locating places on the Western Front, pricing 1914 household expenditure, adding it up and decimalising the total were tricky. With one or two exceptions, we were not very knowledgeable! However, everyone enjoyed the evening. For interest Janet had printed out maps showing Europe in 1914 and 1918 and the British daily ration for the troops in 1914.

Meetings of Interest:

SAHS (Staffs Archaeological and Historical Society) meet 8.00 pm, St Mary's Heritage Centre, Market Square, Lichfield. Admission £3.00

Feb 20th: Walking the Retreat, Terry Cudbird.

March 6th: Newman Coffin Fitting Works, Simon Buteux.

March 20th: From Neolithic Bones to Viking Boats and Whitby Jet, Oliver Harris.

April 10th: The Saint in St Editha's, Bob Meeson.

April 17th: Aston Hall Birmingham, Simon Davies.

May 1st: The Viking Winter Camp at Torksey, Dawn Hadley.

Hilton and Marston History Group meet 7.30 pm at the Methodist Chapel, Main Street, Hilton.

Feb 5th: Meet the Pagets, Richard Stone.

April 9th: History of Findern, John Hawkins.

Etwall and Burnaston Local History Society

meet 7.30 pm at Methodist Chapel Schoolroom, Etwall.

January 20th: Derbyshire Adventurers and Explorers, Shirley Horton.

February 17th: Churches and Churchgoing in S. Derbyshire, Philip Heath.

March 17th: Arabella Stuart, the Queen that never was, David Templeton.

April 21st: Toyota – in the beginning, Sir Alan Jones.

June 16th: 2nd Ivor Smith Memorial Lecture.

Lord Melvyn Bragg returns to Etwall to speak on 'The Power of English'. (Part 2). The venue is the Frank Wickham Hall, Etwall, at 7.30 pm.

Tickets will be limited by the capacity of the Hall, and tickets for non-members and visitors (£4.each) must **be reserved**. Contact Pam Kerby 01283 730287

(sandypits.kerby@btinternet.com)

News from BMSGH:

Improving the adoption system and services for children and young people.

Children, grandchildren and other relatives of adopted adults can now trace back through their ancestors' lives - helping them to unearth their family history, discover more about their medical background and reach out to long-lost relatives.

Previously, only the person adopted and their birth relatives were able to use specialised adoption agencies to help shed light on their family history and make contact with their biological family members. The new rules will extend this right to all relatives of adopted adults, from children and grandchildren to partners and adoptive relatives, allowing greater openness in adoption while ensuring adopted people have the right to a private, family life. This positive change will help thousands of people discover their place in history.

WDYTYA Discounted Tickets

BMSGH will again be organising Group Ticketing for this show, now for the first time at the NEC. Normal entry on the day tickets would cost from £22-00, or £16-00 in advance with p+p up to £6-50. However Group Ticketing is available at £10-00 per head + £2-00 handling. Short of getting a free ticket, this is probably the cheapest way of gaining entry. This includes two free advance workshop tickets per person (in advance £2-00 each), and a free show guide (normally £2-00). This arrangement of group ticketing through the organiser is available to all comers.

Booking forms and further info in the society March journal or from the organiser

Email coachtrips@bmsg.org Info here

<http://www.whodoyouthinkyouarelive.com>

Findmypast Friday: New UK records:

Nottinghamshire baptisms 1538 -1980: over 847,000 records transcribed by members of the Nottinghamshire Family History Society,

Nottinghamshire marriages 1528-1929 : over 689,000 records transcribed by members of the Nottinghamshire Family History Society.

Nottinghamshire burials – 1539-1905: over 240,000 records transcribed by the Nottingham Family History Society.

Monumental Inscriptions: transcribed by members of the Mid-Norfolk Family History Society, this record set contains over 9,500 inscriptions from over 25 of the county's parishes including war memorials.

Newspaper Notices Sussex, Eastbourne

Gazette newspaper notices 1858-1931, was created by "Family Roots" The Family History Society for Eastbourne and District and is an index of names from the paper's pages related to birth, marriage and death notices, divorces, murders, tragedies, shipwrecks, lynching and paternity cases.

British Army, Bond of Sacrifice: Officers Died in the Great War-1916, which includes photographs!

Marriages from London's Docklands and East End, 1558-1859

Over 2.5 million new British newspaper articles **Registers** from the Derby Railway Servants' Orphanage, 1875-1912

News from the Lost Cousins website:

ScotlandsPeople add more BMDs On 1st January each year [ScotlandsPeople](http://scotlandspeople.gov.uk) add an extra year of birth, marriage and death registers. This year the additions are 1914 births, 1939 marriages, and 1964 deaths.

Masterclass: Tracking down pre-1837 baptisms and marriages.

Online will service still isn't working perfectly Rags to riches - how a laundry maid became a Viscountess! To read the newsletter, access the following website:

<http://lostcousins.com/newsletters/jan15news.htm>

Redfern's Museum of Uttoxeter Life. 32 -34 Carter Street, Uttoxeter.

The Cottage and Museum, built in 1628 is an important and rare example of an early 17th century timber framed cottage, which reflects the changing social history of Uttoxeter. Its association with Francis Redfern, an important local historian who lived in part of the property for almost fifty years until his death in 1895, adds to its significance. The two editions of Redfern's, "*History & Antiquities of Uttoxeter*" published in 1865 and 1886, together with his many water colour paintings of local buildings including 32 - 36 Carter Street, are an extremely valuable record of that time. Uttoxeter Town Council purchased the property and in 1987 it opened as a museum. It is now run by a charity, the Uttoxeter Heritage Trust and relies on local volunteers for its day to day work.

The archive An extensive archive has been acquired by the museum with many hidden gems relating to Uttoxeter and the surrounding area including original deeds, scrap books, maps, photographs and records relating to Uttoxeter Town Council.

The archive service The archives are an underused resource as people don't know it exists! They are now undergoing a revamp to provide a consistent professional service. This means the archives will be staffed usually on a

Tuesday answering enquiries, updating the catalogue and dealing with visitors to the archive (appointment necessary). We have recently revised the research charges to reflect this and hope to add the catalogue to the web site www.redfernscottage.org and start producing information for sale such as books, Ebooks, DVDs etc. So please get in touch and come along to view our archive and museum and discover hidden gems in Uttoxeter. Web site www.redfernscottage.org

New Developments in Staffordshire History, Saturday 28th March, 10.00- 5.00 pm. To be held at the Kingston Centre, Fairway, Stafford ST16 3TW Cost £19.00 to include lunch and refreshments. **Programme includes:**

RESEARCH ACTIVITY PAPERS

The Vicars Choral of Lichfield Cathedral 1730-1830; The Culture of Working-Class Gardening in Walsall 1830-1890; Perceptions of Prostitution in Lichfield 1877-1896

Martin Perkins (Head of Early Music & Instrument Curator, Birmingham City University) Sir Samuel Hellier's Orchestra
Dr Simon Harris Staffordshire Soldiers at Agincourt, 1415

LATEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL NEWS

ARCHIVE AND HERITAGE NEWS

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY NEWS

LOCAL HISTORY AT BIRMINGHAM UNIVERSITY

Societies' displays

Details from

www.staffordshire.gov.uk/leisure/archives

To buy a ticket online contact

Staffordshire.record.office@staffordshire.gov.uk

Future Branch Meetings:

18th February 2015. Planning a Visit to the TNA at Kew. Members' evening but open to visitors.

18th March 2015. Writing Your Family Story.

Speaker: Mike Sharp, BMSGH.

15th April 2015. Have You a Family History Problem. Members' evening but open to visitors.